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January 25, 2002

Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D. Street NW, suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Ms. Hesse:

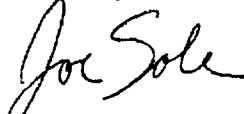
Recently, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that Microsoft had reached a settlement with nine states. I believe so for two key reasons:

First, as a matter of principle, it is the right thing to do. This Antitrust case has worn its welcome out and has gone on too long. Now is the right time to settle, given the state of the economy. Second, and most important, the terms of the agreement are fair and balanced to everyone. Microsoft agrees to share its intellectual property when necessary and will not penalize a company if it does not use Microsoft products. At the same time, Microsoft is allowed to move on and focus on its business without having to worry about this part of the Antitrust case.

This settlement benefits both sides, and I fully support it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Joseph A. Sole